(c) whether Government are aware that jute growers had to sell their produce to private traders at a very low price and jute growers are being discouraged for production of Jute and production is likely to be decreased next year as a result thereof; and

(d) if so, whether Government propose to purchase jute produce from the growers directly and to allot more money than the previous year for procurement of jute?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) Government already guarantees the margin money requirements of Jute Corporation of India (JCI) in order to enable it to conduct price support operations and also reimburses the losses, if any, that may be incurred by JCI in such operations, for which adequate funds are provided to JCI.

JCI was sat up in 1971 to protect the interests of jute growing farmers by undertaking price support operations in the eventuality of fall in prices of raw jute below minimum support levels. JCI has in association with its agents, purchased 3 18,500 quintals of raw jute in Assam upto 1.12.92.

Opening of Silk Depots in Azamgarh and Mau District of Uttar Pradesh

3567. SHRI SYED SIBTEY RAZI: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether any requests have been received by Government for opening of Silk Depots at headquarters of Azamgarh and Mau Districts of U.P.;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government have taken any decision on these requests; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and if not the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) to (d) Sericulture is basically a state subject and as such the silK depots for the supply of silk yarn are run/opened by the concerned agencies of the State Governments. The question of opening of silk depots at the HQs of Azamgarh & Mau district is thus required to be considered by the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

In so far as Government of India is concerned, it promotes research & development activities in the silk sector under the aegis of Central Silk Board and also under takes formulation of policies for overall growth of this sector. Through its policy measures it also intervenes from time to time to improve the availability of silk yarn in the country. The Central Silk Board has already established a net-work of its units in Uttar Pradesh to supplement the efforts of the State Government for development of sericulture in the State. Besides, an intensive sericulture project involving an outlay of Rs. 7.18 crores has recently been sanctioned by the Government of India for implementation by the Central Silk Board in collaboration with the State Government of Uttar Pradesh.

Growth of Textile Industry

3568. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of TEXTILES be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the recession in the global market is affecting the growth of textile industry in the Country; and

(b) if so, what measures Government are taking for export of textile goods to various countries on a competitive rates?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF TEXTILES (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) and (b) Textile exports from India are showing healthy growth trend in the current year and do not appear to have been unduly affected by recession in the global market.